

The Arizona Department of Health Services is alerting the public to the potential contamination of some imported foods. The foods of most concern are those containing milk or milk products. The following information is provided to clarify the current status of investigations relating to imported foods potentially contaminated with melamine.

- No infant formula is imported into the US from China and no contaminated infant formula has been found in the US.
- Current information provided by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) confirms that some other food products containing milk or milk products imported from China may be contaminated with melamine.
- Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS) is testing of a variety of imported foods containing milk or milk products for melamine contamination. Results will be provided as testing is completed.
- As of September 25, 2008, the FDA testing of milk based products imported into the United States from China has not found melamine contamination.
- The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) is alerting consumers that seven Mr. Brown instant coffee and milk tea products are being recalled by the Taiwanese company, King Car Food Industrial Co. Ltd., due to possible contamination with melamine. King Car Food Industrial Co. used a non-dairy creamer manufactured by Shandong Duqing Inc., China, which was found to be contaminated with melamine.
<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01891.html> and
http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/sunnymaid10_08.html
- QFCO, Inc. of Burlingame, California is recalling White Rabbit Candy because it may be contaminated with Melamine. http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/qfco09_08.html
- Tristar Food Wholesale Co. Inc. is recalling Blue Cat Flavor Drink because it may be contaminated with Melamine. <http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01896.html>

The potential health impacts of consuming melamine contaminated foods relate primarily to the possibility of kidney damage. The possibility of damage appears to increase with the length of the exposure, the age of the individual, and other existing health conditions. The concern for the health risk to children is much higher because children may be exposed to a variety of potentially contaminated foods and on a continual or recurrent basis. A child may eat several pieces of contaminated candy each day, along with several other potentially contaminated food items. The result is a smaller, more vulnerable person exposed to a larger amount of contamination, over a sustained period of time.

Melamine is a chemical used in making a variety of hard plastic-like items, including dishes, kitchen utensils, or table and wall surfaces. The recently discovered contamination of milk and milk products in China appears to be the result of melamine being added to milk to alter test results used to determine product quality. Tests are used to measure how much protein is in a product. Milk and various other products are required to contain a certain level of protein. Melamine falsely raises the indication of protein content, thereby allowing lower quality products to be sold as superior quality products.

Additional information may be found via the following links:

US Food and Drug Administration: <http://www.fda.gov/>

FDA Updates Health Information Advisory on Melamine Contamination
<http://www.fda.gov/bbs/topics/NEWS/2008/NEW01895.html>

QFCO, Inc. Recalls White Rabbit Candy Because of Possible Health Risk
http://www.fda.gov/oc/po/firmrecalls/qfco09_08.html

US Department of Agriculture (USDA)
<http://www.usda.gov>

Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR)
<http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/>

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
<http://emergency.cdc.gov/agent/melamine/chinafood.asp>
<http://wwwn.cdc.gov/travel/content/MelamineChina.aspx>

World Health Organization, Frequently Asked Questions
<http://www.who.int/csr/media/faq/QAmelamine/en/index.html>